

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Christopher Lutz on 4/14/2009.

Claims 33-34 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 6-10, 12-13, 21, 24-26, 32, and 35 have been amended as shown in the attachment.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 6-10, 12-13, 21, 24-26, 32, and 35 are allowed over prior arts of record. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior arts of record fail to specifically state that the acoustic feature includes an average pitch of words near the period of silence and a function of a pitch of words adjacent to the word gap, the acoustic features based on words adjacent to the word gap including the average pitch of the words two back from the word gap and the a ratio of the average pitch of words one forward and one back from the word gap. Furthermore, it would have not been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the prior art of record in order to obtain the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1, 6-10, 12-13, 21, 24-26, 32, and 35 are allowed over prior arts of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN X. VO whose telephone number is (571)272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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